

MARKED-UP COPY OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

18. (new) Camshaft comprising a cylindrical tube, cam and end pieces characterized in that the cylindrical tube has

a tube length of from about 100 mm to 1500 mm,

an outer diameter of from about 10 mm to 100 mm, and

a wall thickness from about 0.5 mm to 10 mm, and

is furnished with a fine crystalline compound stable phosphate layer and

wherein the thickness of the fine crystalline compound stable phosphate layer amounts to from about three micrometers to 10 micrometers and wherein the

cams are pressed with the inner diameter onto an outer diameter of the

cylindrical tube furnished with the fine crystalline compound stable phosphate layer, and

wherein the end pieces are pressed with the outer diameter into an inner diameter of the cylindrical tube furnished with the fine crystalline compound stable phosphate layer.

19. (new) Camshaft according to claim 18 characterized in that

the end pieces are pressed with their inner diameter onto the outer diameter of the cylindrical tube furnished with the fine crystalline compound stable phosphate layer.

20. (new) Camshaft according to claim 18 characterized in that bearing rings are pressed with their inner diameter onto the outer diameter of the cylindrical tube furnished with the fine crystalline compound stable phosphate layer.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 17 continue to be in the case.

Applicants are submitting new claims 18 through 20. If necessary, applicants are willing to cancel any number of claims necessary. No claims are being cancelled at this point in time in order to avoid confusion and additional work associated with any reintroduction of existing claims.

17. Claims 1-7 and 9-16, as best understood, stand rejected under 35 U.S. C. 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U. S.C. 103(a) as

obvious over Seim et al. (Publication "Erhöhung der Sicherheit gebauter . . ." cited in EPO Search Report in the parent application).

The applicants believe that new claims 18 through 20 define the invention in a patentable way. Favorable consideration of these new claims is respectfully requested.

The present amendment is intended to present claims which are deemed to be in better form for appeal.

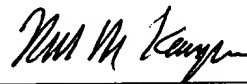
Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested. All claims as presently submitted are deemed to be in form for allowance and an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Herbert Gropp et al.

By:



Horst M. Kasper, their attorney
13 Forest Drive, Warren, N.J. 07059
Tel.: (908)526-1717; Fax: (908)668-5262
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